

Response After Final
Application No. 09/629,982
Attorney Docket No. 000921

REMARKS

Claims 5 - 10 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claim 5 has been amended and claims 6 and 10 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated January 23, 2006.

Title of the Invention:

The title of the invention stands objected to in item 3 of the outstanding Action as being not descriptive. It is respectfully submitted that the title of the invention has been amended to overcome this objection.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner maintains the following rejections:

1) claims 5-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuhashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,497,193) in view of Anderson (U.S. Patent No. 6,512,548);
and

2) claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuhashi et al. and Anderson in view of Mizutani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,674,464).

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention, when an instruction key is in a non-operative state, an object scene image having a low resolution is repeatedly output from an outputter. When the instruction key is in an operative state, a single frame of object scene image having a high resolution is output from the outputter.

A first displayer displays on a monitor a moving image based on the object scene images repeatedly outputted from the outputter when the instruction key is in the non-operative state. Furthermore, a recorder performs a recording process on the single frame of object scene image output from the outputter when the instruction key is in the operative state.

A still image based on the object scene image to be subjected to the recording process by the recorder is displayed on the monitor by a second displayer. However, whether or not the instruction key has been shifted from the operative state to the non-operative state is determined by a determiner prior to starting a display process of the second displayer. The determiner permits the second displayer to carry out the display process during a time period of the operative state being maintained when a determination result is negative, while prohibits the second displayer from starting the display process when the determination result is affirmative.

Accordingly, when an operating time period of the instruction key is extended, a still image representative of a recorded object scene image is continued to be displayed. When shifting from the operative state to the non-operative state, a process to display a moving image representative of a real-time object scene image is resumed. On the other hand, when the operating time period of the instruction key is shortened, a process to display the still image representative of the recorded object scene image is prohibited. That is, a displaying of the still image is omitted.

Consequently, an operator is able to quickly confirm the recorded object scene image by extending the operating time period of the instruction key, while the operator is able to quickly resume a framing of an object scene by shortening the operating time period of the instruction key.

Thus, the display process of the recorded object scene image prior to resuming the display process of the real-time object scene image is permitted or prohibited depending upon the operating time period of the instruction key, and therefore, quick confirmation of the recorded object scene image and quick resumption of the framing of the object scene are accomplished.

In contrast, according to Mitsuhashi et al., when a shutter button is depressed to a second stage in a state of a real-time moving image of an object being displayed on an EE mode, a still

image representative of the object is recorded to a secondary storage. When depressing of the shutter button to the second state is completed, a display process of the real-time moving image on the EE mode is resumed. It is noted that when a certain time period elapses where the shutter button is restored to a first stage, an operation mode is changed from the EE mode to a review mode. Therefore, the still image lastly recorded is reproduced from the secondary storage so as to be displayed.

Thus, in Mitsuhashi et al., when depressing of the shutter button to the second state is completed, the display process of the real-time moving image is resumed first. The recorded still image is displayed by a particular operation of the shutter button during the certain time period. Since a display order is the real-time moving image → the recorded still image, and the recorded still image is displayed by the particular operation, it is not possible to quickly confirm the recorded still image in Mitsuhashi et al. That is, in Mitsuhashi et al., although a quick resumption of a framing is realized, no quick confirmation of the recorded still image is realized.

In addition, Mitsuhashi et al. fail to disclose or remotely suggest anything about a constitution of the present invention in which the display process of the recorded object scene image prior to resuming the display process of the real-time object scene image is permitted or prohibited depending upon the operating time period of the instruction key, and therefore, quick

confirmation of the recorded object scene image and quick resumption of the framing of the object scene are accomplished.

Anderson discloses to display a newly captured image on an LCD immediately after a capturing operation. However, Anderson also fails to disclose or remotely suggest anything about a constitution of the present invention in which the display process of the recorded object scene image prior to resuming the display process of the real-time object scene image is permitted or prohibited depending upon the operating time period of the instruction key, and therefore, quick confirmation of the recorded object scene image and quick resumption of the framing of the object scene are accomplished.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it is not possible to reach the present invention from each or a combination of Mitsuhashi et al. and Anderson, and therefore, the present invention is patentable.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

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If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEB', is written over the printed name of Thomas E. Brown.

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